

**BERNALILLO COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-22**

1 An ordinance amending Chapter 34, Article II, Sections, 34-31, 34-32, 34-33, 34-34, 35-35, 34-  
2 36, and 34-37 updating the structural definitions of Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue to reflect  
3 modern practices.

4  
5 Sec. 34-31. - Organization, administration and operation.

6 The organization, administration and operation of Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue is  
7 established and governed by the Board of County Commissioners, through the office of the Fire  
8 Chief.

9  
10 (Ord. No. 02-5, 9-24-02)

11  
12 Sec. 34-32. - Policy of county.

13 (a) The quality of life is enhanced by the vigorous administration of effective fire  
14 prevention, fire suppression and emergency medical services throughout the county.

15 (b) Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue is a career department, delivering quality  
16 emergency prevention and field emergency services to the citizens of the County.

17 (c) Providing these services is consistent with the constitutionally prescribed functions  
18 of government to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the general public.

19 (d) It is the policy of the County to provide staffing, funding and equipping of  
20 Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue within available resources consistent with the  
21 standards of local, state and national standards.

22 (e) Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue is a department established in numbered fire  
23 districts, each assigned a geographic operational area. Those district boundaries presently  
24 in existence are hereby ratified, subject to the continuing power of this board of county  
25 commissioners to change such boundaries in the future.

26 (f) The County recognizes that private corporations perform useful functions in support  
27 of the Fire Department. However, emergency and field services provided by Bernalillo  
28 County Fire and Rescue are exclusively governmental activities. Private corporations  
29 have no authority to manage the operations of the Fire Department, or any part of the  
30 Department, including fire districts.

31  
32 (Ord. No. 02-5, 9-24-02)

33  
34 Sec. 34-33. - Cooperation with nonprofit fire auxiliary organizations.

35 (a) In consideration of the services provided by private auxiliary organizations in  
36 support of Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue, the Fire Chief is authorized to enter into  
37 agreements with such organizations, to allow rent free use of fire stations for such  
38 organizations' fundraising and social events, provided that any fundraising activities  
39 clearly state that the funds raised are being paid to such organization and are not being  
40 paid to or under the control of the County.

**CONTINUATION PAGE 2, ORDINANCE 2021-22.**

(b) Such auxiliary organizations may also enter into agreements with the Fire Chief to perform other functions related to fire, life, property and public safety including, but not limited to, safety education and inspections.

(Ord. No. 02-5, 9-24-02)

Sec. 34-34. - Responsibilities and authority of the Fire Chief.

The Fire Chief shall be nominated and recommended by the County Manager to the Board of County Commissioners for confirmation as an unclassified department director employee in accordance with Article III, Division 3, section 2-91 et seq. and the County's employment rules and regulations.

With approval of the County Manager the Fire Chief shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Administration, supervision and technical work in planning, fire prevention activities, emergency medical services, field operations and other related duties of the County Fire Department.

(2) Staffing, recruitment, training, budgeting and all other administrative matters and for the development and improvement of the county fire department to keep abreast of changing local conditions and technological changes in firefighting and fire prevention.

(3) Implementation and enforcement of fire and safety codes, and any articles designating the Fire Department as the enforcement agency as are now or hereafter adopted by the county.

(4) Authorized to commit Fire Department personnel, equipment and resources, wholly or in part, to emergency fire protection and emergency service delivery and mutual aid, and relief of danger to life or property from accident, explosion or natural disaster.

(5) Authorized to enter into agreements, contracts and working arrangements with other units of government for implementing and administering the provisions of this article, after approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

(6) Promulgate and enforce department policies and procedures for administering disciplinary action applicable to paid and civilian personnel. These departmental policies and procedures shall be enforced in conjunction with, and not in conflict with collective bargaining agreements.

(7) Evaluate as outlined in departmental policies and procedures, all members on an annual basis. Evaluations shall be discussed with each person evaluated prior to submission to the county human resources department.

(8) Establish and implement a set of guidelines, policies and procedures for all present and future fire districts in order to promote discipline, efficiency and unity throughout Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue.

(9) Establish plans, programs and budgets necessary to implement the provisions of this article, and shall provide the County Manager with written reports as the County Manager may require, including incident reports.

(10) Arrange communications systems and networks necessary to adequately alert, dispatch and/or communicate with facilities, equipment and personnel within the County for administration and response to accidents, medical emergencies, fire, explosion or natural disaster.

(11) Creation and implementation of property and life loss prevention education programs.



**CONTINUATION PAGE 3, ORDINANCE 2021-22.**

(Ord. No. 02-5, 9-24-02)

Sec. 34-37. - Medical control.

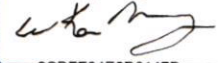
All Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue members responding to emergency medical services calls, and/or providing emergency medical service patient care shall do so only under the prior authorization and supervision of the Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue Medical Director. The medical director shall have responsibility and authority which includes medical training and appropriate medical dispatch procedures, both technical and medical. Nothing in this section shall be construed to give the Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue medical director authority to allocate funding. All funding allocations shall be done through the Fire Chief.

(Ord. No. 02-5, 9-24-02)

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BERNALILLO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

DocuSigned by:



W. Ken Martinez, County Attorney

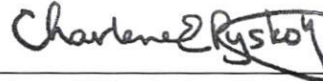


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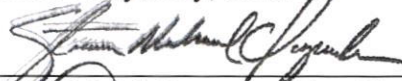


Linda Stover, County Clerk

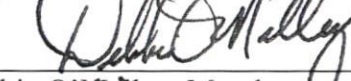
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



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